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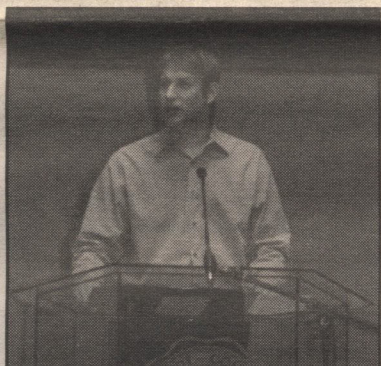
Jubilee play begins

"The Jubilee Show, Written by Schap, started last weekend. Here, Jonathon Horlings, Beth Knight, Nathan Pasma Erika Hydeen and others practice.

photos by Sara Prins



Luke Schelhaas promotes Dordt's vision



Sarah Prins

A Christian in Hollywood, Schelhaas epitomizes the Dordt dream of taking Culture for Christ by storm

Jessica Braunschweig
Staff Writer

When the co-producer of "Smallville" makes an appearance at "Dordtville," it's bound to be big. And the packed pews of the BJ Haan at the Oct. 21 convocation certainly indicated just that. Matching his message, Luke Schelhaas indeed showed up with a vision, adding much well-received

humor along the way. Yet behind his wit and wonderful way with words, stood so much more than a Hollywood stereotype. Clearly, Luke Schelhaas is a man who lives what he believes in a place that readily attacks what Christians stand for.

He'll be the first to tell you that it's far from easy, and his refreshing honesty was valued by so many in the audience. Professor de Mol reflects many people's views in her appreciation of Luke "detailing the areas of tension in living out that vision in his field and other fields, lest we think that such living is always clear or always easy."

Luke also put forth a challenge to Dordt professors—that in sending students out into enemy territory, they may train them to be strong and surround them with prayer. Luke's message further expanded on the legendary "fishbowl recruiting poster," as he acknowledged the fact that "Dordt is an institution that gathers in to send out." Clearly Luke has faced the stormy life of

reality out at sea, even swimming with the big ones, some might say. But he's thankful for his "fishbowl beginnings" where he gained values that have led him to where he is today. Certainly, Luke's now realized that much more lies beyond the shores than Northwestern. And it is by God's gracious hands that he has kept afloat, even beginning to make waves in all-too dangerous and stormy sea.

Thus, it is fitting that in this Jubilee year, Dordt is celebrating God's grace and guidance for all of His children out at sea, who are diving into the work of His Kingdom. The Lord is using Dordt alumni in many different areas of life, and the convocations are proof of that.

President Zylstra wishes Luke and all alumni well as they are out on the front line for Christ. Not everyone will be called to work in television, but all of us have the opportunity to share the vision, and we all have the responsibility to show up.

De Vries performs and lectures

Ann Andree
Staff Writer

The Dordt community gathered together on the evening of Saturday, October 23 to celebrate the Jubilee Celebration and the 25th anniversary of the Casavant organ in the BJ Haan for a guest recital by Sietze de Vries.

de Vries is an accomplished organist in the Netherlands, having won fifteen prizes at various national and international organ competitions, both in the areas of literature and improvisation. He is becoming a popular teacher of improvisation and is a composer.

During a master class on improvisation last Friday, de Vries remarked to the students, "Some people think improvisation and composing are the same. Absolutely not! In improvisation you can make mistakes; composing has to be precise. You have to know for whom you're writing and the organ for which it will be used."

As part of the celebration, de Vries was commissioned to compose a jubilee piece based on Psalm 150, which is inscribed on the organ. Entitled "Laudate Dominum," there are six preludes which are in more-or-less chronological order from Baroque style to early modern. de Vries wanted to give an opportunity for the preludes to be appropriate for the celebration and for worship services. "Laudate Dominum" was accompanied Saturday night by the Concert Choir.

Catherine Sunderland, a junior, said of the concert, "He made the organ sing and sound light and airy, calling forth thoughts of pleasant days instead of your grandmother's funeral."

Advanced Artwork Display

Dordt's Advanced Drawing class, under the direction of Professor Susan Van Geest, has put their artwork on display in both the Chamber of Commerce of Sioux Center and the Firehouse Underground in Sioux Falls. The exhibits feature the work of Matt Behrens, Kearsen Boman, Sonja Eenigenburg, Sarah Franken, Erika Hydeen, Kara Ledebor, Megan Niewenhuis, Rachel Palmer, Sara Prins, Andrea Van Wyk, Briana Van Wyk, Sarah Versluis and Mark Zwart. It is free and open to the public during regular business hours.

ing regular business hours.

Christian Author Visits Campus

Eric Ludy, co-author of *When God Writes Your Love Story*, will speak at Dordt College on Thursday, Nov. 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the B.J. Haan Auditorium. He and his wife Leslie are coauthors of several young people's books, and they have spent the last nine years speaking to hundreds of thousands of young people, college students, parents and leaders across the country and internationally about love, relationships,

and God. For more information on Eric Ludy and his work, visit ericandleslie.com

NC/DC eXtreme is here!

If you haven't heard about it already, the NC/DC competition is on. Come out this Friday to Northwestern's gym to see the first performance at 10:00 p.m. Those representing Dordt include Alecia Engelsman, Rosie Grantham, Kansas Calkhoven, Rebekah Oudman, Dan Zylstra, Joe Hoksbergen and Justin Vande Kerk. So come cheer them on and go to SAC's website to vote.

Fast Forward



Jill Hiemstra
Staff Writer

Club News Is Mono a Campus Threat?



Nathan Nykamp

Josh Bower and Leanne Kooienga go over the details of NC/DC

SAC: The People behind (almost) everything

Nathan Nykamp
Staff Writer

You may not know it, but if you are ever involved with an event that is open to the student body, the Student Activities Committee was part of it. Everything from the Pumpkin Carving last week to the upcoming NC/DC event this coming Friday has been put together by this group of 20 students. It's hard to understand how much work goes

into one of these events until you sit in a meeting. Ever little detail has to be worked through to insure that things go smoothly. If you want more information about what SAC is up to, check out denis.dordt.edu/sac/ to find any information that you might want. So the next time you see someone walking around campus with a SAC shirt on, run them down and say thank-you, you never know what they might be involved in.

PLIA-students with a heart for service

Nathan Nykamp
Staff Writer

PLIA, or Putting Love Into Action, is the organization to go to if you are at all interested in doing service work. Not to be confused with AMOR, PLIA does mission work inside the United States over spring break. Melissa Vander Plaats says that they exist "to be Christ's ambassadors," and try to provide an opportunity for students to get involved in the outside world. PLIA is made up of students from each of the classes who take care of the meetings and getting the trips organized, "using their gifts to help others." If you are interested in getting involved with PLIA or finding out more, stop by their website at <http://homepages.dordt.edu/~plia/>.



Nathan Nykamp

Melissa Vander Plaats, a member of the PLIA planning committee.

Kim Lucier
Staff Writer

Dordt has recently experienced mono outbreaks among the student population. It is not uncommon for school facilities to face mono cases year after year.

Mononucleosis is an illness usually caused by the Epstein-Barr virus (EBV). Mono is most common in people 10 to 35 years old, with its peak incidence in those 15 to 17 years old. It strikes approximately two out of every 1,000 teens and twenty-somethings.

Mono is transmitted through saliva, which leads to the well-known "kissing disease" nickname. Even sipping from the same straw or glass of an infected person spreads the illness.

"It is very hard to sometimes track who gave you mono," Pam Hulstein, Director for Health Sciences and Campus Health Services said. Fewer than 10% of people with mono know whom they get it from.

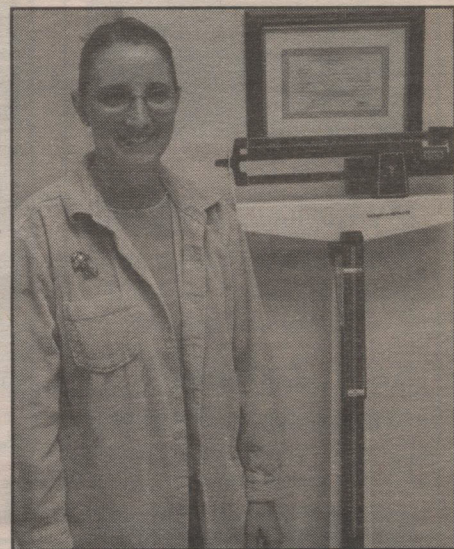
Mono has a long incubation

period, which lasts anywhere from one to two months from the time a person is infected. In fact, many carry the virus without any symptoms or feelings of sickness.

Some of the typical mono symptoms include: swollen lymph glands, sore throat, white patches at the back of the throat, fever and fatigue. Symptoms can last anywhere from two to six weeks.

Due to the fact that mono is caused by a virus, antibiotics do not treat mono. Rather, getting plenty of rest, eating healthy foods and drinking a lot of fluids are the best remedies.

"Students must be aware that [mono] is out there, and if they're experiencing any symptoms, then have these looked at by a health care provider," says Hulstein. "And, students should think particularly about how it's spread and not affecting someone



Sara Prins

Pam Hulstien is the director for Health Sciences and Campus Health Services.

else."

Students are always at risk for mono. Therefore, it is important to pay careful attention to surroundings and actions, reducing the likelihood of spreading or catching the virus.

New Bookstore Manager

Emily Junkin
Staff Writer

Dordt College grad Lora De Vries, Sioux Center resident and mother of two, is now the manager of the Dordt College Bookstore, taking the place of the now retired Cornie Rylaarsdam.

In the past De Vries has taught at Hull Christian School. She's also succeeded as a Wal Mart department manager, supervisor, and trainer for more than 16 years.

De Vries is quite happy with her decision to take on the role of manager. "It seems like a good fit," she says. "I've always had an interest for working at Dordt." De Vries doesn't plan on making any major changes just yet though. "I'd like to

wait 'til I get a feel for it," she says.

But that doesn't mean she lacks vision. De Vries' high hopes for the bookstore were quite obvious by the end of the interview.

"My vision is for us to be as much of a service as we can for the students," she says. "We're always looking for suggestions from the students, so we can serve them better."

De Vries and her husband, Jerry, have two children. Tara (De Vries) Dekkers is attending Dordt, while Clark De Vries is studying at NCC. Jerry is the owner of De Vries Trucking.



Sara Prins

Lora DeVries: Bookstore manager with a vision.

Out 'n' About WORLD NEWS BRIEFS

Jill Hiemstra
Staff Writer

Rehnquist Undergoes Surgery

U.S. Chief Justice William Rehnquist, the leader of the Supreme Court's conservative majority, has recently undergone surgery for thyroid cancer. The

news comes days before the presidential election, and has some rethinking the issue of possible replacements, as some judges are expected to retire this year. Rehnquist, at 80 years of age one of the nation's most powerful and conservative jurists after being on

the court for more than 30 years, underwent a tracheotomy on Saturday, and is expected to be released this coming week.

Missing Iraq Explosives

Three hundred and eighty tons of explosives are missing from a former Iraqi military facility that once played a key role in Saddam Hussein's efforts to build nuclear bombs. The disappearance was reported Monday, and officials are obviously worried that these explosives have fallen into the

wrong hands. They can be used to demolish buildings, down jetliners, produce warheads for missiles and detonate nuclear weapons. Presidential candidate John Kerry has used this information against President Bush, saying he "must answer for what may be the most grave and catastrophic mistake in a tragic series of blunders in Iraq."

Red Sox have Lifelong Fan

The Boston Red Sox have had a lifelong fan, literally. The world's oldest man, Fred Hale, Sr., is 113

years old. He saw the Red Sox win the World Series in 1918, and is anticipating it this season; "We'll wait and see. Luck goes one way and goes out the other." On game nights, Hale sits with his 84-year-old son, Fred, Jr., to watch the first few innings of each World Series game before going to bed. Both live at The Nottingham, a senior residence center in Syracuse. Hale has been officially documented as the world's oldest man by the Gerontology Research Group at the UCLA School of Medicine.

October 29, 2004

Kevin's Response

Kevin Zonnefeld

All of our sins are equal in God's eyes except for the rejection of the Holy Spirit. Because of this it does not matter whether I kill someone, whether I lie about stealing a cookie, or whether I'm a practicing homosexual who has chosen such a lifestyle. If I am committing any sin I must fall to God in repentance.

I stated earlier that many in God's churches are not showing the love seen throughout Jesus' ministry and that we must not push homosexuals away from the church, but instead invite them to our churches and show them Christ's love and compassion. I am not welcoming more sin into the churches; this statement also assumes that the sin in our churches is lesser than that in the world. I believe that we are all equally depraved and therefore the amount or level of sin in our churches will always be the same until Jesus' return.

Mr. Talsma quotes Leviticus 18 to show God's abhorrence for homosexual activity. However, the Bible also speaks out about many other sins besides the practice of homosexuality. The Lord detests all sins! The sins that we commit are all equal and the Lord hates all of them. The Ten Commandments in Exodus 20 is a wonderful guide and example provided by God as a key to recognizing our sin. Mr. Talsma goes on to say that loving and accepting are not the same thing. I do not agree with Mr. Talsma's statement. I believe that we must accept all people because of our universal depravity and that we must love all people. This includes acceptance of them as sinners. A practicing homosexual will not feel accepted in a church that does not accept him or her for who they are and therefore he or she will not feel loved either. God is love and we can only love because He loves us (wretched sinners) so much that He died for us and now works through us (wretched sinners) to love others. If we are not willing to show love to homosex-

uals, to love them as they are, then how can we expect God to love us? Furthermore, I believe that you can not say that you love someone and not accept them as a person. You may disagree with their lifestyle and also that they are sinning, but then you must also realize that you sin and that we all need God for our salvation.

I am simply advocating that we align ourselves to be led by the Spirit and to have Him do His work through us. I stated earlier that the focus of our lives on this earth is the coming of the kingdom of God. Therefore, as Christians, we should desire to do God's will. I believe that this includes witnessing to the "sinners" in our day just as Jesus witnessed to the "sinners" in His days. If homosexuals do not feel accepted or loved they will never come to God's house or commune with His believers—a God commanded activity. If a homosexual is accepted and sees the love of Christ in God's community of believers we must pray that the Spirit will work in us and in him or her and bring about change in the specific persons life. Once they have been accepted and loved and the Holy Spirit is given an opportunity to work in them they will either choose to reject Him or to accept Him just as we did or will do at one time or another during our faith maturation.

Therefore, we must first be accepting of everyone. We are all sinners and were supposed to die a horrible death. Thankfully God sent Jesus to die for us. We are now called to work for God and to focus on the coming of His kingdom. We must accept homosexuals and get them into our churches; not quote scripture from Leviticus 18 telling them that God hates what they are doing! He hates all of our sins. How would you feel if when you walked in a church or if in our society a specific sin that you struggled with was always being discussed and people talked about how God detested that? I know that I would not

feel even accepted let alone loved. I understand that many do not hate homosexuals, but there stance against them is perceived as so.

Finally, Talsma states that the church is God's institution and should be operated according to His will, not the will of pressure groups or even the opinions of the majority. I would like to say that I am a minority within the Christian community. I am not aligned with many. However, the majority of the Christian community believes that homosexuals should be murdered. On the 19th of September Jimmy Swaggart said this pertaining to a homosexual male, "And I'm gonna be blunt and plain, if one ever looks at me like that I'm going to kill him and tell God he died." This came during a sermon broadcast to millions of people world wide. I do not want to be a part of this Christianity. I do not want to be a part of this majority.

Diamond Staff

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Respectful Disagreement

Steve Kloosterman
Editor

"Respect the person while debating the topic." That's how a good debate is supposed to go.

If "Moral Christianity" offended you, then I'm sorry it offended you. What I suppose was perhaps most disturbing to most of you was the essay's implied message that those Christians belonging to the Democratic Party were not moral people. I apologize for that message.

I do *not* apologize for pointing out that the policies held by the majority of the Democratic Party are immoral. Democratic State Senators *are* behind bills in California (Senate Bill 71) and Illinois (Senate Bill 99) that really do allow schools to teach kids at five or six years of age about sex as they see fit. The Democratic Party *has* historically supported gays in the military. The Democratic party *has* traditionally supported legislation that allows people like Hugh Hefner to make a fortune off of degrading women. Hefner himself contributed \$6000 to Democratic candidates in the past two years. The Democratic party *has* supported gay adoption in the past and *will continue to do so*; as the Democratic National Committee's Platform for 2004 demonstrates.

While recognizing the sincerity and good intentions of my Christian, Liberal friends, I would question whatever wisdom that leads them to vote for a party whose policies—apart from increasing relief to the poor—have attacked almost all other values held by Christianity.

It seems to me that often at Dordt, when we want to attack a "secular" position held by someone else, we refer to it as "dualis-

tic" (valid only when a moral double standard is assumed). But when we want to defend a "secular" position of our own, it's easy to invoke Kuyper's sphere sovereignty.

What I think is frequently ignored about Kuyper's sphere sovereignty is that all of the spheres—government, church and school—are under the dominion of Christ. Therefore, while I agree it certainly would not be appropriate for Dr. Carl Zylstra to depose the President and Congress, it is a mistake of equal magnitude for voters to act as if the morality preached by Jesus Christ is irrelevant to the Government's task.

De Young asks what would happen if the homosexuals or Muslims seized control of the government and tried to impose their own morals on society. We wouldn't like that very much, would we? My contention is that the gay lobbyists and Muslim extremists would do *just that* if they could! These groups, unlike many of us Christians, have *no* intellectual hang-ups about voting in accordance with their own values. It is my belief that if we Christians come into politics with any less zeal than they do, six years down the road we may very well may be arrested on charges of "hate speech" for reading something as simple as Romans 1.

I'm sorry if I do come across as being harsh. I'm sick of this banter, too, so much so that I almost didn't write this editorial. Why don't we strident Republicans and Democrats and Naderites just all go out drinking, er, eating cookies, together after the election, and promise not to say a word about the whole thing, ever again? We should set something up. I'm serious.

Response to Letter to the Editor

Submitted by Rachel Palmer

After reading Andrew de Young's response to "Moral Christianity" (Oct. 15)," I respect his political position, but I must disagree with him. In his letter, he spoke of sphere sovereignty, citing government's roles as "preserve[ing] order and establish[ing] justice." I wholeheartedly agree. In his previous article Andrew expressed a common focus of the Democratic Party—that is, to care for the poor through welfare programs. However, if he was consistent with his idea of sphere sovereignty, he would realize that caring for the poor was never, and should never have been the job of the government, but rather the church. For the government to attempt to solve the problems of the poor, while noble, is ineffective and misplaced, as it oversteps the boundaries of its sphere.



Secondly, Andrew decried "legislating morality." I can understand his concerns, but he misses the very important concept of worldview. Like it or not, our worldviews influence everything we do. There is no way around it, and to deny or go against our worldview will eventually lead to a conflict of interests. In that way, it is impossible for Christian politicians to daily disconnect their faith from their lives as they make important decisions. The important thing to note, also, is that secularism and atheism are just as much religions as Christianity. So while Christians are accused of "legislating morality," the secularists in the Senate (for instance Clinton or Daschle) are applauded for being "good politicians" whose personal opinions have no bearing on their decisions. They may not

have an official name associated with their religion or worldview, but it most definitely informs all of their opinions. Legislating morality is not the same thing as legislating Christianity. Everyone has a moral sense; everyone, deep down, knows right from wrong.

Augustine said, "Total abstinence is easier than perfect moderation." It seems like liberals would rather take the easy route and abstain completely from defining any morality in society. But that leaves a society where it's okay to kill babies for personal expediency, where anything done behind closed doors is okay, and where the name of God is forbidden except in blasphemous uses. Is that the kind of society you want? Because it's already here.

Letter to the Editor

I found it irresponsible of the Diamond to run a headline wondering if the practice of Lectio Divina might be "new age rubbish," especially when the article itself did not address this question at all.

Lectio Divina is a centuries old practice of the orthodox Christian faith. New Age philosophies are recent arrivals on the scene, inspired by Eastern mysticism with various Western humanistic tangents mixed in. Dordt students tell me that their participation in Lectio Divina in various settings (including Wellspring) has enriched them immeasurably. I have benefited from it as well.

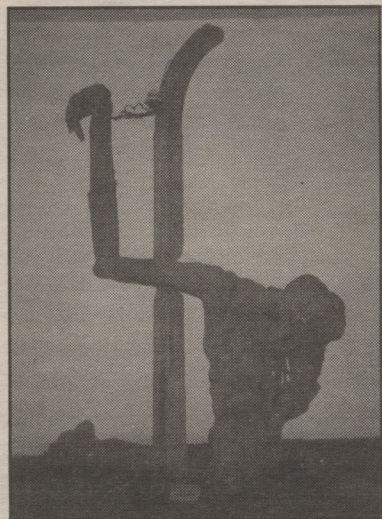
Certainly a debate about the merits of this ancient practice would be welcome, but please host the debate in a responsible manner.

-Syd Hielema

Editor's Note: The headline was indeed irresponsible and was a mistake. We did not mean to attack Lectio Divina in this way. The headline and question-mark graphic were placed close to deadline by someone who had not not read the story in question, and who had a misunderstanding with the page editor (who was not present) as to the nature to the article, which, incidentally, reviewed Lecio Divina in a fairly positive light. Again, we sincerely apologize for any and all damage done. --Steve

Vestiges of Ashes

... a walk through Auschwitz



Rebecca McPerson

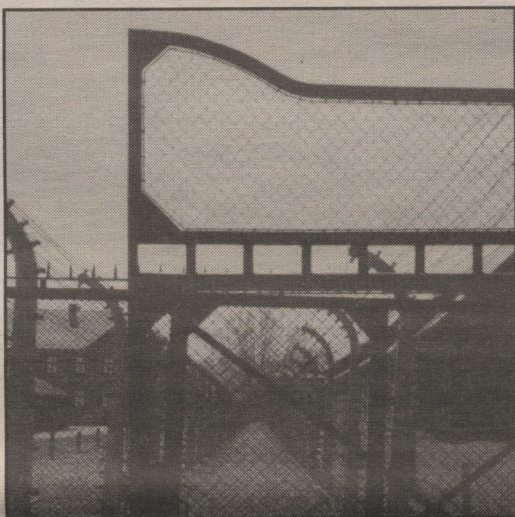
Rebecca McPherson Staff Writer

I was nervous. It had not become real to me until those last few moments as we pulled into the parking lot in front of the Auschwitz Welcome Center. I could hardly breathe as I exited the bus, the others murmuring all around me; we all know that just beyond those doors was a cemetery unlike any we had ever seen. As we made our way toward the building, a group of adolescent Jewish boys emerged from the museum, tears running down their cheeks, and I wondered if we would leave as devastated as they. The smell of polish dogs from a concession

stand beside the ticket counter made me feel ill, especially after I saw the sculpture. The sight of it made me sick and sad all at once; the pieces of a man hung from chains on a barbed-wire fence. It was full of suffering and emotion. Our guide led us outside, along a sidewalk that led us past a wide green lawn; she told us this place just outside the entrance to the camp had served as an execution area. We walked on, under a gate with the words "Arbet Macht Frei." I guessed their meaning: "Work is liberation." I imagined the prisoners of this camp being led through this gate everyday, working until they collapsed from exhaustion, buried in the rock beds in which they were forced to work. Those words must have seemed like hot irons to them. I felt them sting me as I walked under them. That first rush of tears filled my eyes as I looked into the world beyond the cast iron gate.

During my year as an exchange student in Sweden, a youth group in my town presented me with a trip to Poland to visit Auschwitz, a Nazi Concentration Camp. Having only one year in

Europe, I naturally wanted to see as much of it as I possibly could so I took them up on their offer. As I look back on it now, I realize I was not prepared for such a sobering place, but the experience gave me a huge appreciation for life and freedom. During the trip to Poland—a two-day journey by bus—we spoke often about the concentration



Rebecca McPerson

camps as well as their impact on our society today. We viewed films, read stories, watched interviews all to prepare us for what we would see. Our youth group prayed often that all this preparation wouldn't callous our hearts; with all the time we'd spent talking about it, all the videos we had seen, we were wor-

ried that when we finally arrived at the camp, it wouldn't impact us. But the anguish I felt as I stood in front of the gateway proved that I had not been as prepared as I had thought.

Beyond the barbed wire fences and gate stood rows of brick buildings. Our guide led us to the first, explaining that the rooms inside had been converted into the actual museum. She spoke broken Swedish with a Polish accent, and though I was nearly fluent in Swedish, I could not concentrate enough to comprehend what she was saying—my mind was aching just trying to grasp my surroundings. As we climbed the staircase inside the building my feet slipped, and I almost tripped. The marble stairs were worn into deep grooves exactly where my feet were. Thousands of feet have climbed these steps. Continuing to climb, I pictured them, women clasping tightly to one another as they were led to these rooms and stripped of dignity. We walked through the rooms looking at the photographs

on the walls, black and white. One in particular grabbed my attention. Three little boys held hands, skipping and smiling—unaware—as a woman led them to the gas chambers. The boy in the middle, however, lingered and looked directly at the camera. His eyes deep and haunting, I stared back

at him for what seemed like hours. Maybe he knew. God, I want to blame you. I want to ask you why. How could you let them slaughter little children?

I didn't completely lose control until the third building. The tears were falling steadily, but I was still holding together. At least, until I saw the hair. As we entered the room, a sick smell filled the air. The guide explained that the smell was the smell of rotting hair, which I suddenly saw: a huge glass display case, from floor to ceiling,

filled with human hair; it had been left at Auschwitz when the Nazis fled. The greenish gray color of the hair turned my stomach, the guide explaining that the hair was actually used to weave the prisoners uniforms. I rushed out, leaving my group behind me, only able to hold in the sobbing until I was in the hall. Slowly it subsided, and I stood waiting for my group, but began to wander and found myself alone in a room of suitcases.

Their names were scratched on the surface, names like Peter and Anne, addresses from all over the world scribbled below them. There were leather handbags, suitcases, purses; I stood there stunned, getting as close to the glass as I could, reading the names, wondering if I would ever be able to forget all this proof, all those traces of people who no longer existed.

I want to blame you. I want to ask you why. How could you let them slaughter entire families?

For the rest of the tour, the questions and tears never stopped. I saw their shoes. I saw thousands of

pots and pans. I saw hand made baby clothes. I even saw wooden legs and crutches. I stared into a solitary confinement cell. I leaned against the Black Wall, where the blood of thousands of Jews had left it stained. I stood inside the crematorium and took a breath. I stared at thousands of frozen, pleading eyes, and

have never been able to forget them.

When we found that the emotional strain had numbed even our bodies, we made our way back to the city. But as I walked out of that place, terrified, horrified, and wounded, I felt inside of me determination. I must not forget. The black eyes of children, watching me from their immortal pose, called to me to never forget the way their lives were wasted. I will never forget. I will choose to never forget.



Rebecca McPerson

Dordt College and Northwestern College present:

NORTHWESTERN
ULTIMATE
DEFENDER
NC/DC
Extreme

It's Back

...and BIGGER than ever!

FRIDAY, OCT. 29

Premiere, Bullman Center, Northwestern College, 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 5

Semi-Finals, BJ Haan, Dordt College, 10 p.m.

FRIDAY, NOV. 12

Finals, Bullman Center, Northwestern College, 10 p.m.

ADMISSION IS FREE!

For more information, participant profiles, voting information and video clips of performances go to www.nwcow2.edu/dcol/benis.dordt.edu/sac

October 29, 2004

Using God's Gifts

Sarah Snieder
Guest Writer

Luke Schelhaas, a 1996 graduate of Dordt College, is currently a writer and co-producer of Warner Brothers' "Smallville." Schelhaas grew up in Michigan and moved to Iowa during high school. In 1997, he took an entry-level position as a production's assistant on television's "Touched By An Angel," and worked his way up to become a writer and producer on the show. Over the past eight years, he has written screenplays and short films that have won numerous awards. Although his experiences have given him a taste of Hollywood glamour, Schelhaas has remained strong in his faith and is a truly normal, down-to-earth person.

What kind of person do you consider yourself to be?

I always tell people that I feel that I am shy, but no one believes it when I say that. So the perception that other people have of me is not that. I am a creative person—writing and creating something brings me a great amount of joy. It is the work that I believe God has called me to. I hope that it is something that I excel at. People are very important to me—making friends, being a good friend, and trying to find time for people. I'm told that I'm a funny person, though possibly sometimes I try too hard at that. I'm a bit of a home-body; I don't mind sitting at home reading a book. I'm not a thrill-seeker. I seek to find fulfillment in my work and in my relationships.

How did you get into your profession?

I've always loved writing. I wrote as a kid. I like to tell people that I wrote before I could even write, before I could even spell. I would dictate stories to my parents and they would write them down for me. I've always had that desire

to create stories, to create characters. In high school I continued to write a lot. I found that every book I read I would imagine it as a movie. I would put the book down, and I would imagine what it would look like if it was a movie. So I started thinking that I would be interested in working in film. I went to Dordt and studied English and Education. I intended to be a high school teacher. At one point I decided to take advantage of the Los Angeles Film Studies Program. When I made it through that program, I decided that I would give it a shot. Oddly enough, after I made that decision I ended up back in Iowa and spent a winter driving a snow plow as a job because nothing had come up in film or television by that time. Then one day when I was living in Sioux Center I got a call from the film studies program telling me that there a job possibility on "Touched by an Angel" as a production's assistant. I made a call and had an interview over the phone and they hired me for the next season.

When you started getting involved in all of this, did you receive any skepticism from family or friends?

I would say almost across the board I received encouragement to pursue this. My family and the community, coming from a Reformed tradition, said it's important to go out into the world and reclaim every part of the world for Christ, and that includes the film and television industry. It is an area that needs Christians working in it. Film and television have great influence in the world and it's going to have the influence whether or not Christians are involved in it. So I think for that reason I received a lot of encouragement. They thought that this would be a way for me to use the gifts that God has given me for His glory.

Do you find it hard to be a Christian witness in Los Angeles?

I don't go about my daily life thinking, "How am I going to witness today?" I'm not that specific about it. But I do feel that I am comfortable being open about my faith. And I hope that my example will be a witness, or just my attitude, the energy that I bring, the fact that I don't swear a lot, or that I try to be as polite as possible, will be a witness. This is who I am, this is what I believe; I'm not ashamed of it. People see that and find it appealing and are attracted to it in a way. I don't think that it is hard to be a Christian in Los Angeles. There are a lot of us out here, more and more, and I have a good network of Christian friends. But a lot of people that I work with are not Christians, so a lot of my witness is myself, being a Christian and being honest about it.



Sara Prins

Luke Schelhaas

What are some of the joys and challenges of working in LA?

The work that I do here brings me a lot of joy. I feel happy and blessed to be able to do what I love doing and make a living at it. I also have a wonderful group of friends out here.

Some of the challenges of my work are being presented with an assignment that I may take a moral issue with. And how

do I deal with that? Do I say no, I can't write that? Do I take the repercussions of that? And that could be, if I refuse too many stories, I could get fired. And frankly, why even take the job if I turn down every episode? I'm going to be asked to deal with issues in writing that are going to be hard for me to deal with. The show that I work for may come down on certain issues very differently than I would. And since it's not my show, I can't control the worldview that a series might put out on the air. What I can do is take the assignments that are given to me and be responsible with them. And I may have to turn down certain assignments. That's a balance that I have to try to walk.

What would you say is your biggest accomplishment?

It's hard to say. Being where I am right now in my career, being at a place where opportunities continue to come for me, I think that is an accomplishment, and that includes all of the scripts that I have written up to this point, the short films that I have written, and the chances and the jobs that I have taken. I could not choose between any of the scripts [or episodes] that I have written. I feel that they are accomplishments when someone comments on an episode that I wrote. Particularly with "Touched by an Angel", I would receive comments about how an episode that I wrote helped somebody, was an encouragement to them, was something that they needed to hear.

What are some of your future plans?

My plan at this point is to continue to work for "Smallville" as long as it is on the air. Down the road, I would like to be head writer or executive producer of my own show on television. I feel that's one way of being able to be in creative control of the content of what is being shown on television. That is something that I could do to most effectively work as a Christian—to have creative control over the content of what goes on the air. I would also like to get into film—writing for film, writing screenplays, and possibly directing.

What is your advice for someone hoping to make it in Hollywood?

Go for it and don't expect anything to happen too quickly. Be persistent if this is something that you are passionate about, that it is something that you think God is calling you to. I think it's important to just show up and do the work even though it may be difficult. Don't give up too soon. Do whatever you can do learn to do your skill as well as you can. I think it's about waiting for the right opportunity and taking it, and sometimes it's about making opportunities for yourself. Be ambitious. I think to make it in this field you have to want to do it. And most of all, enjoy it.

What have you learned from your experiences?

I've learned that God opens doors and that sometimes you have to walk through those doors not knowing exactly where those doors lead, or how well you will do, or how hard it will be. I've learned to recognize opportunities that God is giving me to do work that is both fun and challenging and God-glorify and hopefully useful in His kingdom.

Twirp Week comeback



Lindsey De Jong
Features Editor

I think it is time that an old and honored tradition is resurrected on Dordt's campus. Our forebearers were salt-of-the-earth folk and maybe it is time that we young wiper-snappers reconsider the things they thought were important and valuable in the life and health of the campus. The grand tradition I speak of is Twirp Week.

Oh, you think I jest, but no. Twirp Week was once a highly valued community building tool in the early years of our esteemed college. Twirp Week gave the men of the campus a chance to relinquish their chivalric ways to the women of the campus. Dordt gals performed the gallant tasks of opening doors, carrying books and buying lunches for their guy pals. According to the March 22, 1968 Dordt Diamond, date cards were distributed so that the women could keep track of all the gentlemen they had "twirped."

Now, I know today we have traditions that are roughly on par with that of Twirp Week. The Dordt Walk, for example, is a wonderful custom allowing a convenient venue for a "DTR" (Define The Relationship) moment. But what about all those gals out there who have yet to meet the man who will accompany them on a Dordt Walk?

I propose we reinstate Twirp Week as a community "engaging" event. Picture it, a young man, stands outside the library, struggling to juggle his books, his Discman, all while lighting a cigarette. A worthy young lady sees his dilemma, swoops in with her handy Bic lighter and saves the day. She then slings his burden onto her back and nobly escorts him to class.

Just imagine, that this rosy picture of a relationship obviously destined for storybooks could be yours if you support the Twirp Week comeback. As the class of 1968 so eloquently stated as their Twirp Week motto, "Have a blast, it may last!"



Grant DeHaan, Dordt Class of '92 invites you
to his new jewelry store!

Center Stone
JEWELERS

Grant DeHaan

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Sioux Center

(Just South of Ashley Furniture)

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Open Monday thru Friday, 9-5:30

Wednesday 9:00 to 9:00

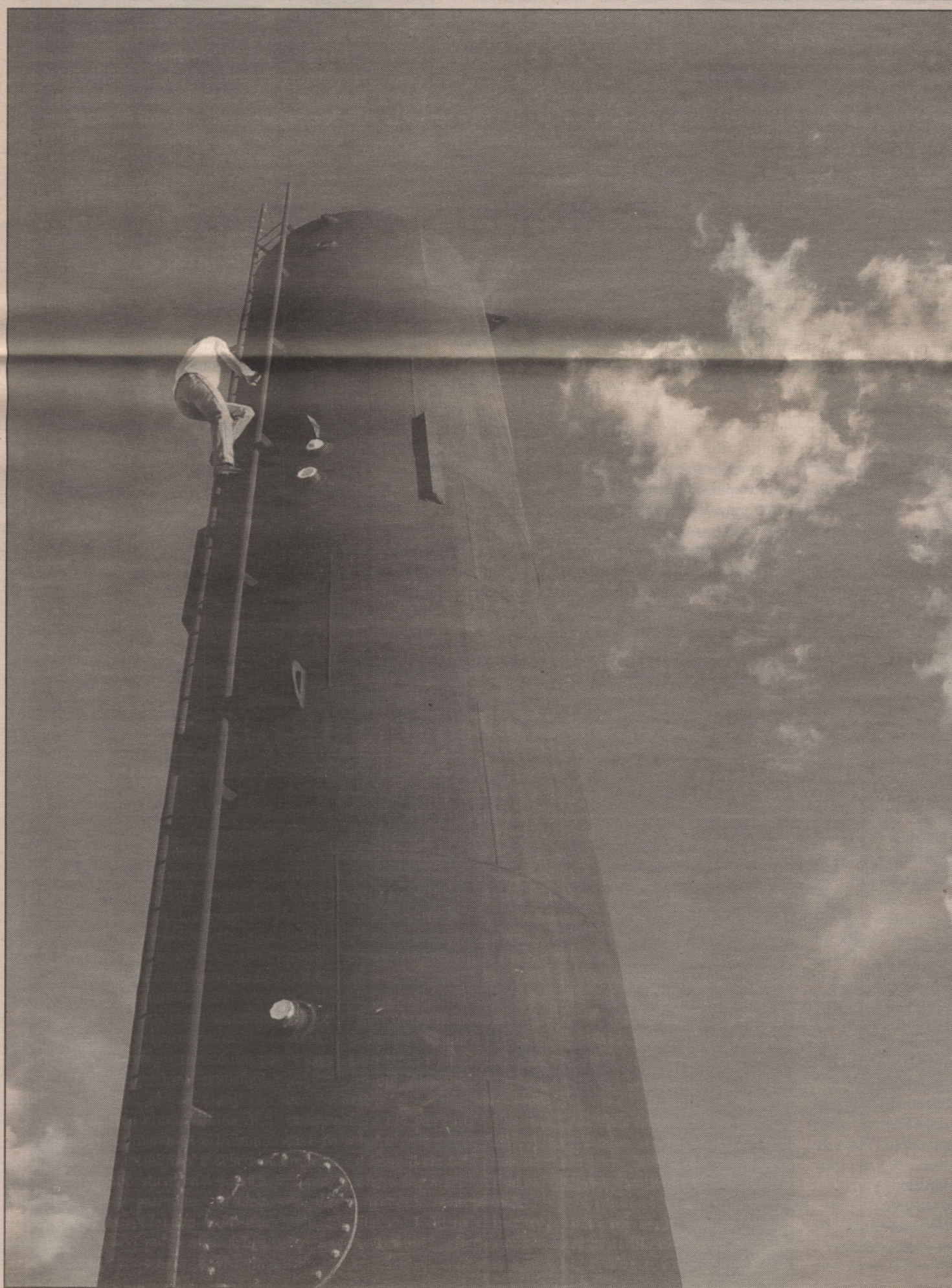
Sat 9:00 to 5:00.

*Evenings By appointment

right:
 "This thick reckless danger"
 Erika Hydeen
 Compressed charcoal and eraser
 3' x 7.5' canvas
 \$300



left:
 "JACK & TORI"
 David Ver Meer
 Black & white photograph
 2004



October 29, 2004

Afraid to say 'Jesus'? They're not.

Lynette Andree
Entertainment Editor

A couple years ago, four young men from Southern Oregon decided to follow God's call in their lives and created a band, Seven Places—named from all the places where Christ's blood flowed when He was on the cross. They generated quite a response from their first album: "Lonely for the Last Time," spurring them on to release a new CD: "Hear Us Say Jesus."

"Hear Us Say Jesus" seems like a blunt title for a CD, something that many people might view as a turn-off from the music. The title of the CD hung heavily on the minds of the members of the band. They wanted something that would really express the message that they wanted to convey. They wanted something that would be non-compromising. Hear Us Say Jesus was the perfect title for that. It was non-compromising, and it sent the exact message they wanted. The title was inspired by the Bible verse, "in all of your ways acknowledge Him" (Proverbs 3:5). The title was just

one way that they acknowledged Him.

Their lyrics are another aspect of the CD that express the Christian beliefs of the band. "Lyrically this album is all about finding creative ways to say 'Jesus'" says band member Seth Gilbert. It happens so often that bands create a picture of Jesus or God without actually saying his name. This means that the listeners need to decode whether the song is singing about God, or the girl or boy next-door.

The lyrics are straightforward and blunt: "Even when my eyes are dry . . . even when my hands are tired, I will lift them up to you. It's not about how I feel, oh Lord, I am here for you." They sing about real-life Christianity. The lyrics are challenges to really live for God and not be ashamed about it. Their lyrics leave no room for questioning, they are powerful, straightforward.

The music style is much different from the first album. They went from high-strung punk band to a more mellow, mature alternative rock. They challenged themselves in this album not only lyrically but musically as well.

"Come on Down!"

The Price is Trite to offer prizes and fun this Saturday

Josh Bowar
Opinion Page Editor

Once again, the 60-minute Price is Trite will be featured at Dordt College this year, sponsored by SAC.

The event will take place October 30, with the doors opening at 7:00 PM and the show starting at 7:30 PM. Contestants are strongly encouraged to wear costumes because doing so greatly increases their chances of being selected to play a pricing game.

"This Price is Trite will offer new games, a lot of fun, and a few

surprises," said LeAnne Kooienga, one of the Dordt College SAC Co-Chairs. "We hope that everyone can come out because we've really gotten some great prizes this year."

Dordt SAC has been active in planning this event since the middle of September. Businesses were sent a letter asking them to donate prizes for the event. SAC members pick up these prizes, gather all materials for the event, decorate the stage, and will work at the event.

Other students are also involved. Seth Shannon will serve as Bob Barkers, and Jon Schans

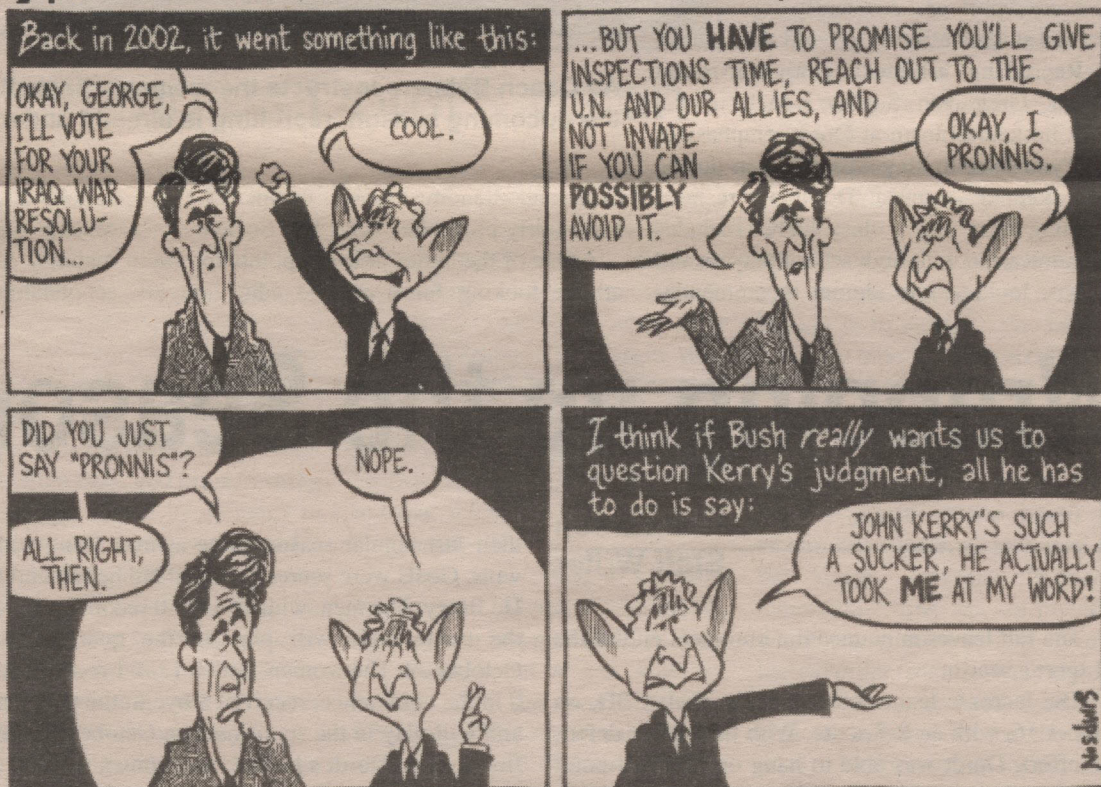
will be at the mike as Rod Roddey. Beauties will be Janean Swager, Sandra Viss, Rachel Fikkert, Alicia Groen, Kearsen Boman, and Katie Boer.

This event concludes a weekend that features another event, NC/DC eXtreme, which will be held at the Northwestern Bultman Center October 29 at 10:00 PM.

So pick out a great costume, gather up some friends, and head over to the BJ Haan on Saturday, October 30 at 7:00 PM for a chance to win some free stuff!

I DREW THIS

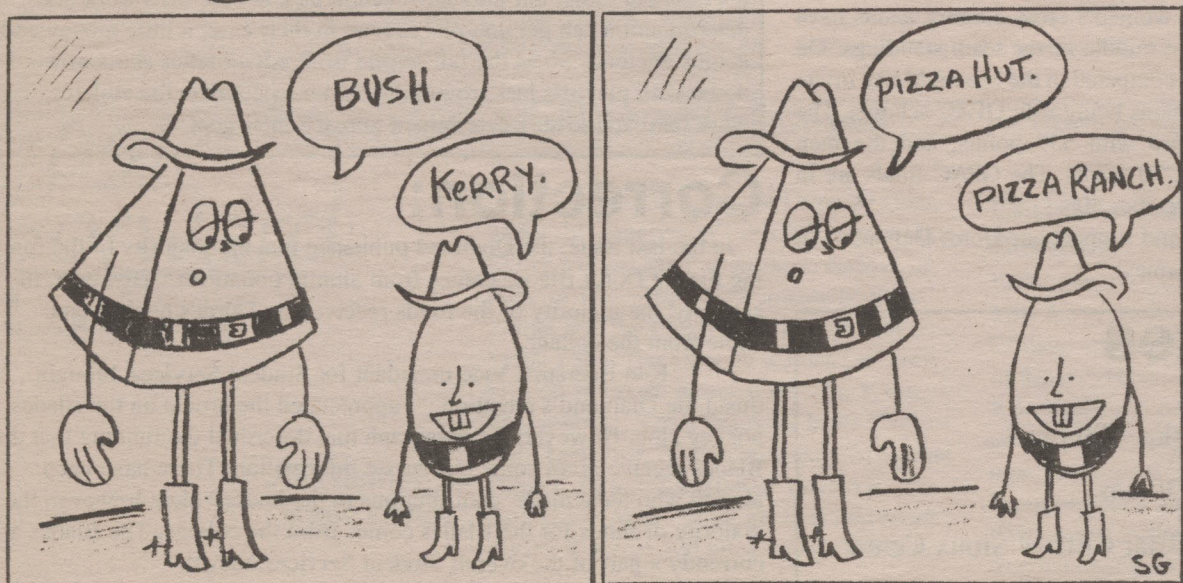
by David Craig Simpson.



**reprinted with special permission of the author in place of this issue's DIRK

Cowboy Cheese

Sam Gutierrez



COME ON DOWN
--TO THE ANNUAL--
PRICE IS TRITE!
Saturday, October 30

@ the BJH
Doors open at 7:00!
Show starts at 7:30
Those who dress up will
have a greater chance of
being selected to be on
stage.
MANY PRIZES WILL
BE GIVEN AWAY



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October 29, 2004

Recruiting future Defenders

The athletic recruiting process at Dordt takes collaboration of many

Andrea Dykshoorn
Assistant Sports Editor

As days get shorter and temperatures drop, people begin to haul out their coats to prepare for another cold Iowa winter. And towards the end of October, they begin to come out—the black varsity jackets with “Dordt College” emblazoned in gold lettering across the back. The number of varsity jackets that can be seen testifies to the large population of athletes on Dordt’s campus. But how did these athletes end up at Dordt?

Like any other college or university, Dordt recruit students as a major undertaking. While gifted academic students are a significant focus for admissions, athletes are another key target of recruitment. Coaches for every sport are constantly looking for potential student athletes to build their teams.

Recruiting athletes is a year-round process. Greg Van Soelen, coach of the men’s basketball team at Dordt, emphasizes that, “you have to stay with it. Even during the basketball season at Dordt, we’re busy recruiting next year’s class.” This includes communication with high school players and coaches, looking into alumni recommenda-



Vanessa Patino

As Coach Beimers instructs the women’s basketball team at a practice for the upcoming season, recruiting is already underway for the 2005-06 season.

tions, and attending summer camps. “We try to be fairly proactive,” says Van Soelen.

One of the major drawing points for any athlete looking for a college education is

scholarship dollars. According to Rick Vander Berg, Dordt’s Athletic Director, the majority of student athletes at Dordt are on scholarship; these scholarships range any-

where from \$500 up to \$7000 for two-sport athletes. Each coach is allotted a certain amount of funds to be used for freshmen scholarships. However, before the award is granted, both the Athletic Director and Admissions must approve it.

Mike Epema, Director of Financial Aid, projects that Dordt will spend \$450,000 in 2004-5 on athletic scholarships. This is an increase of nearly \$70,000 from last year, when \$380,000 was allotted to 251 athletes. Part of the reason for this funding increase is Dordt’s recent move to the Great Plains Athletic Conference (GPAC). In order to stay competitive, Dordt must offer scholarships that will attract talented athletes. Another factor is the increase in tuition costs. “We try to make sure that as tuition goes up, so does funding,” states Epema.

Despite the focus on athletic abilities, both Van Soelen and Epema emphasize that there are other factors that influence the recruitment of future Dordt Defenders—specifically academic motivation and Christian character. “What we’re doing is trying to attract the kind of student that we want to be here,” Epema remarks.

Wrapping up the Season

Leslie Larson
Staff Writer

The fall leaves announce the imminent end of the fall sport’s season.

The lacrosse team defeated their rival, USD, on October 16, with an 8-7 score. With their great defensive effort, Dordt was able to hang on to a one-point lead in the final minutes. The fall season has ended, but the team continues to practice hard for the upcoming spring season.

In the first hockey games of the season, Dordt played USD. With close games, 4-5 and 3-5, Dordt came within striking distance in a losing effort. On October 22 and 23, Dordt was defeated by Iowa State University. In the first game, Dordt won 14-3, and in the second game they lost 1-4. They will take on Bemidji State October 29 and 30.

The golf team had their last match October 7 at the Sioux Falls Invitational. As a team, Dordt placed fourth out of six teams. Individually for Dordt, Shane Dooyema placed first with a score of 78, followed by Eric Vander Pol with an 80 and Mark De Groot with an 81. They anticipate improvement next year.

Both the men and women’s soccer teams ended

their last regular season game against Dana with 1-0 wins. Goals were scored by Chad Nibbelink and Nicki De Blaey. The men, with an 11-7-0 record and 7-4-0 in the conference, will play in the quarterfinals on October 29. The women, with a 13-4-1 record and 8-3-0 in the conference, received a bye in the quarterfinals and will play in the semifinals on October 30. For the first time in Dordt’s history, the women’s soccer team is receiving votes in the NAIA national ratings.

In the October 19th NAIA rating, the volleyball team was ranked seventh. Currently, the Lady Defenders hold a 24-2 overall record and an 11-0 conference record. On October 23, Dordt played Morningside defeating them 3-0 following an earlier season 1-3 loss. The team has five more games until the GPAC quarterfinals are underway.

The men and women’s cross country teams have been placing in the middle of the team standings. On October 16, Dordt competed in the Mount Marty Invite with 9 of the 16 teams being from GPAC schools. The women placed third with 337 points, and the men placed sixth with 270 points. The GPAC finals are in Seward, NE, on October 30.

Let’s get out and support our Dordt Defenders in their concluding games!

Quick Hits: Boston Red Sox

Rachel Guthmiller
Sports Editor

You’ve heard the clichés: It’s not over ‘til it’s over, or it’s not over until the fat lady sings. Further, you probably know what they mean—don’t give up before the end of the game, there is always a chance, anything can happen.

But now we’ve seen these clichés put into action. The Boston Red Sox didn’t give up even when all the cards were stacked against them. They kept on fighting until the very end—and it paid off. The underdog prevailed and beat the New York Yankees in a turn around event, winning four do-or-die games in a row to reach the World Series (much to my father-in-law’s demise). And the Red Sox are still going . . .

I don’t know if I’d call the Red Sox an inspiration to all or the next big thing, but they have taught us a lesson: hard work and determination can get you places (and in their case, a little money and genius doctors). So as the fall season of Dordt athletics starts to wind down with playoffs just around the corner, encourage the athletes to work hard and to stay determined to reach their goal.

Correction:

In the last issue, the Diamond published that the majority of the funding for the Dordt Blades comes from alumni donations. However, in actuality, the majority of the funds received by Dordt’s hockey club come from the college.

Ken Boersma, Vice President for Student Services, brought this to the Diamond’s attention. “I appreciated the article on the Blades hockey club. However, the paragraph that described the funding that the Blades receive gives some inaccurate information. There have been alumni who have made contributions to the hockey club; however, the majority of funds for the Blades comes from the college. The Blades are currently a part of the overall Student Services budget.”

Dordt Athletic Playoff Dates

Oct. 29- Men’s Soccer Quarterfinals vs. Doane @ Crete Nebraska 7:00 pm

Oct. 30- Cross Country GPAC Finals @ Seward Nebraska 10:30 am

Oct. 30- Women’s Soccer vs. winner of Midland Lutheran or Briar Cliff @ Sioux Center